

TALON

Operation Joint Forge
Saturday, May 5, 2001

Task Force Eagle
www.tfeagle.army.mil



**Polish Strategic Reserve Forces
Take Part in Training Exercises**

Joseph Westphal Tours MND(N)

Naval Det. Conducts Aerial Surveillance

“THE TEAM”

(Acts 1:12-20)

Once in a while in a football game, a team will signal time out because they don't have all of their players on the field. Someone is missing. A coach does not want to start a play without the right people on the field.

And the game is held up until that player gets out there in the right position. Likewise, a fire chief needs all of his crew and equipment on hand to fight a fire, and a general needs all of his forces and weaponry ready and in place in order to fight a war. Jesus also wanted all of his apostles in place for the work that He was beginning.

After the ascension of Jesus back to Heaven, the eleven disciples were waiting in Jerusalem, continuing in prayer. While they were waiting, God led them to deal with the loss of one of their number, namely Judas Iscariot, who had committed suicide. Someone had to be chosen to take his place so that again there would be twelve apostles, a full team, ready, and in position. A great work was about to be launched, and the One in charge did not want to start until everyone and everything was ready.

We are a team and every “player” is important. We must work together every day to assure mission accomplishment. The Captain of our team is the Lord. He watches over us, directs us and protects us. Let's remember to take Him along. Wherever we go.

Thoughts For The Week

Saturday: No member of a crew is praised for the rugged individuality of his rowing.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Sunday: Light is the task where many share the toil. **Homer**

Monday: A major reason capable people fail to advance is that they don't work well with their colleagues. **Lee Iacocca**

Tuesday: He that ruleth over men must be just. **II Samuel 23**

Wednesday: Everyone is bound to bear patiently the results of his own example. **Aesop**

Thursday: ...reason and calm judgment, the qualities specially belonging to a leader.
Tacitus

Friday: If you choose godly, honest men to be captains of horse, honest men will follow them. **Oliver Cromwell**

**By Chaplain (CPT) Mike Myers
148th LTF, Comanche Base**

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CONTENTS



ON THE COVER

Polish Strategic Reserve Forces have vehicles disinfected before deploying to Dobo.

(Photo by Pfc. Michael V. Bennett)

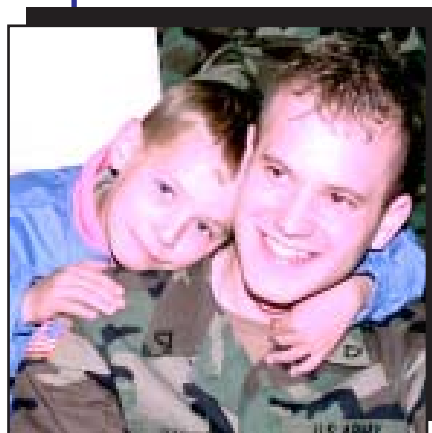
7



ACTING SECRETARY OF THE ARMY WESTPHAL VISITS

"Our mission here is a great challenge. It is apparent that we are prepared for any challenges we might encounter."
(Photo by Staff Sgt. Lisa M. Dunphy)

8



SERVICE MEMBERS CREATE LASTING MEMORIES FOR REFUGEES

Children at the Tuzla Refugee Center were treated to a magic show and donated supplies.
(Photo by Spc. Lewis M. Hilburn)

9

One Mayor's Moment-----	4
Ambassador Miller Visits-----	5
P-3 Orion Surveillance-----	10
Kosovo in Brief-----	12

One Mayor's Moments

Story by Tom Ratcliffe
Mayor of Hinesville, Ga.

I want to take this opportunity and this mode to share with you and with the citizens of Hinesville and Liberty County some of the experience of the group who recently visited the 3rd ID and 48th Brigade in Bosnia.

Our group consisted of Chatham County Commission Chairman Billy Hair, Liberty County Commissioner Sampie Smith and civic leaders Terry Reeves, George Holtzman, Jeff Arnold and Mitchell Bush.

Thanks to the exceptional efforts of all, we had an informative and very pleasant trip. We appreciate all who made it so.

It was our pleasure to be invited by Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp for the purpose of seeing first hand the work being done by our soldiers and the challenges they face. Without reservation I report to you that our friends and neighbors of both the 3rd ID and the 48th Brigade are doing well and that morale is high.

There is a strong understanding among our soldiers of what their mission is: to keep the peace and to return those, who were displaced, to their prewar homes which they left during the fighting or which were destroyed in the fighting. Our soldiers are doing a great job, and work which is important to the world.

It is impossible to capture in words



Tom Ratcliffe (left), mayor of Hinesville, Ga., exchanges a coin with Kudvet Erkan (right), Commander, Turkish Battalion, Task Force Multinational Division (North).

alone the emotional and economic destruction which has occurred in Bosnia.

We visited the site in Tuzla where 71 innocent non-combatants, mostly 20 years old or younger—the youngest was 3—were killed in a mortar attack that hit a sidewalk cafe in the early 1994-95 period of the war. We also visited the memorial cemetery which overlooks the city where most of those killed are now buried.

One of our interpreters, a young Bosnian Muslim woman, was in the shelling and had friends who were killed. As we listened to her description of this event, it became clear how deep the wounds are in this country and how long it will take to make peace.

The process of peacemaking, in my judgment, will take a multi-national commitment from the world community of the quality of our military peacekeeping commitment. Success in this effort to make peace will take patience and endurance from all. Most of all from the people of Bosnia.

We had the opportunity to visit the mayor of the city of Tuzla who is deeply involved in the effort to stabilize and restore the economy of his city of 140,000 of

which 20,000 are people displaced by the conflict.

Bosnia is a beautiful country with many problems and without the means internally to solve them. The native people on all sides confirmed to us that without America's commitment the fighting would have continued and if our support were withdrawn, the fighting will begin again. Our soldiers and their efforts are the difference.

We were proud to be Americans and proud to support our friends and neighbors in the military as they truly keep the peace.

We also went to church on Palm Sunday at Camp Eagle. Outside the chapel is a sign which expressed a modification of one of the beatitudes and which I find a most appropriate closing:

"Blessed are the peacekeepers."

This article originally appeared in the Hinesville (Ga.) Coastal Courier April 23. Mayor Ratcliffe is one of seven civic leaders who visited soldiers in Bosnia in early April.

Minds Aware of Mine Awareness

Story by Spc. Lewis M. Hilburn
Eagle Base

The Mine Action Center, in conjunction with 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Engineers and Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams traveled April 24 to Svetisava Elementary School in Skugiric to promote mine awareness.

Sgt. Jeffery P. Nagel, a DIVENG working for the MAC, taught a class about what mines look like and what they can do if discharged. He showed the children various mines and made sure they knew what is used to mark minefields or potential mine fields.

"Sooner or later they will come in contact with a mine field and we hope they have a better understanding on what to do when they do encounter a field," he said.

Staff Sgt. Douglas Smith, 760th EOD team leader, gave the same class, but went more in depth about the different mines and other unexploded ordinance. He jokingly made conversation with the children about UXO, but his message was all too serious.

He made them aware of what mines can do to them and their

friends. "It was more of a reinforcement on what they already know. When I asked if any of them had seen any of these mines most of them raised their hands," he said. Smith felt that everyone took the class very seriously.

The group brought some soccer balls and a basketball for the school. Sgt. Nagel used a soccer ball in his demonstration and said, "If your ball goes into a minefield don't try to retrieve it, because we can replace a ball, but we can't replace you."

The group passed out coloring books written in Cyrillic and English. They also gave the school a calendar made by a class in Sarajevo, honoring two classmates killed by undetected mines. The calendar emphasizes what mines can do to people young and old.

Mr. Petar Milenkovic, the school principal, said he was pleased with the class given and felt the children had a better understanding of what to look for when it came to mines and UXO.

"I think the children will go home and talk to their parents about this even though we have community meetings about it," he said.

Ambassador Visits Eagle Base

Story by Sgt. Rhonda Morgan

Photo by Staff Sgt. Lisa Dunphy
Eagle Base

U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Thomas J. Miller, visited Eagle Base April 26, to speak with SFOR 9 soldiers. Mr. Miller focused on what the United States' military mission is, goals to strive for, successes and a new future for BiH.

"Our job is to create an environment where people feel safe and secure to go home," Mr. Miller said.

Mr. Miller also stated that in order for us to continue the mission, soldiers and government alike need to see it not as a 100-meter-race, but as a marathon.

"You're always going to be jogging at 60-mph with rain and blowing winds in your face until you get a government that talks about transparency—working ideas with a vision. It is a race that has an end."

Mr. Miller expanded on his ideas of how to prepare for the finish of this long and beneficial race.

"Transition, transition, transition. Every time we do something or put in something, we need to ask ourselves 'How will this transition?' What we are doing here should not become a dependency protectorate."

Mr. Miller feels that the United States is at about mile 17 or 18 in this marathon mission, and is pleased with the success rate at which soldiers are "running."

"We have made it possible for people to feel secure enough to go home and increased privatization at the same time," said Mr. Miller. "The number of displaced persons returning to their prewar homes in 1999 doubled from the previous year, according to Miller."

Mr. Miller continued to explain why our presence in BiH is so important and why it needs to be the U.S.

"It's not about our numbers or the aid we (U.S.) give, it's that we are problem solvers," he said.

Mr. Miller also explained his ideas of when and how the U.S. will finish this peacekeeping operation.



U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Thomas J. Miller, addresses soldiers at Eagle Base April 26.

"The two questions that I get asked the most by other politicians is, 'How are we (U.S.) doing?' and 'When do we get out?' My response to this is, that we will get out as a function of how well we function."

The final stretch seemed almost visible as Mr. Miller stated what he would like to see happen in and for BiH.

"My goals are to get us out of here in a way to where we don't have to come back, and to create lasting institutions that make this place work."

Mr. Miller reminded soldiers the marathon is not just about the "runners".

"What we are doing here is about a lot more than Bosnia, it's about how you do peacekeeping around the world."

New Commander Takes Helm of HHC, 3rd ID (Mech)

Story by Staff Sgt. Ken Hudson

Eagle Base

Maj. John P. Cole received the unit guidon and assumed command of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), Task Force Eagle, during a Transfer of Authority ceremony at Eagle Base Sunday.

Maj. Joel W. Young, the departing commander, said he had benefited from the experience of commanding such a company as HHC, particularly during the time when the unit was deployed to an operational area.

"I have learned something from every member of this company, from the most senior to the most junior member," said Maj. Young.

"By being deployed to Bosnia you are having influence on an event of world significance," he said.

"I have learned something from every member of this company."

— Maj. John Cole, HHC, 3rd ID (Mech)

Maj. Cole leaves his position as Headquarters Commandant, 48th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized), Georgia Army National Guard to command HHC. He reminded the soldiers in his command of their oath of enlistment.

"We are defending our country and its constitution by helping this country's

people find peace," said Maj. Cole.

Col. Barry J. Fowler, Chief of Staff, 3rd ID (Mech) passed the guidon during the TOA ceremony.

In his remarks, Col. Fowler said, "Maj. Young, you should be justifiably proud of your part in the tremendous accomplishments of your company during SFOR 8."

"I am proud of you and your troopers for deploying to Bosnia and supporting the important mission of Operation Joint Forge," he continued.

A division headquarters company is composed mostly of personnel and administrative specialists and the officers of the division staff sections.

According to 1st Sgt. William L. Seabolt, HHC first sergeant, the functions within his company vary widely but consist mainly of administration and record-keeping for the entire division.

American, Polish Soldiers Close Gaps in Language, Training

Polish Brigade, 121 IN make live-fire exercise, patrol part of joint training

Story and photos by Spc. Grant Calease
Camp Comanche

Under the NATO peacekeeping flag in Bosnia there are many nations that today find themselves working with their former adversaries little more than a decade after the Cold War's end.

Company B, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry has been participating in joint training with 22 members of the Polish Brigade during their visit to the American area of operations. Twenty-three American soldiers went to the Polish base at Doboj, said Co. B 1st Sgt. Harold P. Ergle.

A joint-patrol was conducted April 25, with both the Polish and American soldiers traveling to Vlasenica.

"Our soldiers will see a different way of doing things. They (the Polish Brigade) do some things differently. Our soldiers will get the experience of working with another nation's Army," said 1st Sgt. Ergle.

The Polish soldiers conducted a familiarization fire exercise at a range near Camp Dobol. They fired M-60 machine guns during the exercise with soldiers from Co. B's 3rd platoon.

"We got to see the differences between our machine gun and the M-60," said Pfc.



A group of Polish soldiers go for the ball in a game with Co. B, 2nd Bn., 121st ID at Camp Comanche. The Polish and American soldiers relaxed by playing volleyball after going to the firing range earlier in the day.

Thomas M. Tynski, with the Polish Brigade.

"It's pretty cool. We get to see different weapons and heritage and a different way of training," said Spc. Marcus A. Gee from Co. B. This is Spc. Gee's first experience with soldiers

from a different nation.

"Their SOP is different than ours. They can throw some stuff at us we haven't seen yet," he said.

Additionally, the Polish soldiers used the opportunity to increase their language skills.

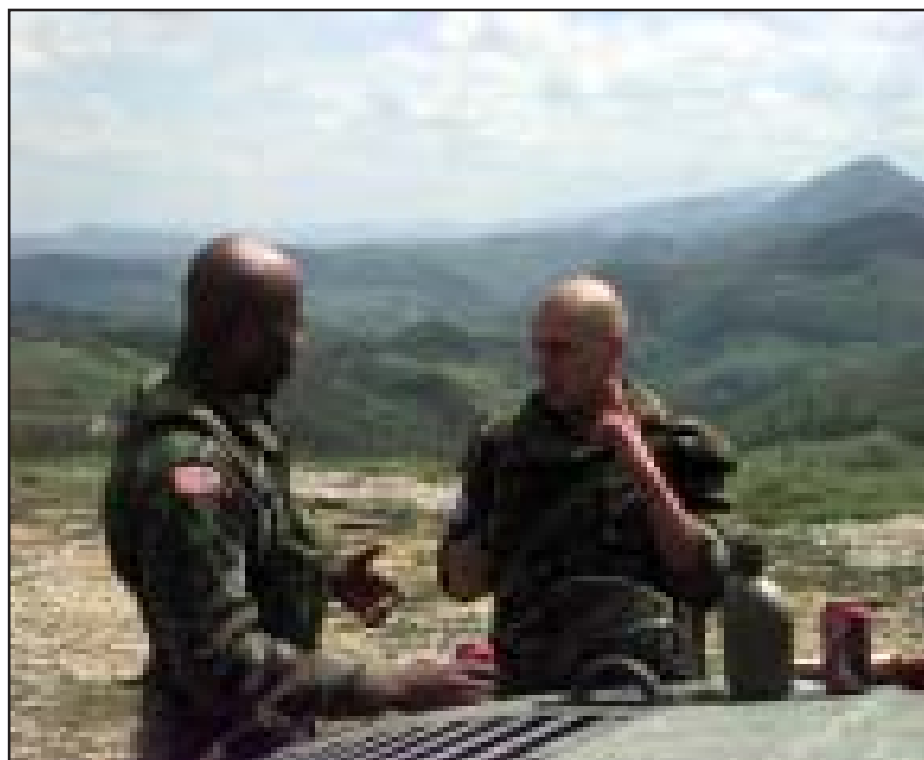
"It helped me better my English," said Pfc. Marc P. Malinowski, with the Polish Brigade. Several of the Polish soldiers spoke English quite well but still liked the practice.

"I had a chance to practice my English," said Pfc. Tynski, who took nine years of English in school. He served as an interpreter to insure proper communication.

The Polish soldiers accompanied 3rd Plt. on a patrol April 26 and returned to their own base in Doboj the following day. Staff Sgt. Leonard H. Davis II with 3rd Plt. believes it went well and hopes to do more of this kind of training.

"We all used to be adversaries, but now we know how to work together as one to provide peace," he said.

Polish Brigade Pfc. Thomas M. Tynski (right) talks with an American soldier during the American-Polish joint patrol. Tynski used English to communicate with his American counterparts and then interpreted for his fellow soldiers.



Polish Soldiers Make Pit Stop Enroute to Kosovo

Story and photos by Pfc. Michael Bennett
Eagle Base

Soldiers from the Polish Strategic Reserve Forces arrived at the Lukavac railyard April 27, bound for Doboj, the Nordic-Polish headquarters in Task Force Eagle's Multinational Division (North).

The Polish soldiers are here to take part in training exercises May 1-10, said Polish Capt. Mariusz Zielinski, the force's Chief of Logistics.

The rail station in Lukevac is approximately 40 kilometers east of the NordPol Headquarters in Doboj.

The forces will conduct joint patrols until May 4, when they receive their own area of operations. On May 10, they load back up at Lukevac rail station and continue on to Kosovo, according to Col. Tommy Paulsen, NordPol Chief-of-Staff.

"The forces will be deployed to Kosovo for eight months," said Col. Paulsen.

The force brought their own tanks and equipment by train, all of which had to be cleaned and disinfected to prevent the introduction of foot-and-mouth disease and other foreign bacteria.

Supervising the cleanup were Capt. Travis Yates and Spc. Melissa Cress from the 248th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services) from Camp Lejune, N.C., and Spc. Travis Zarndt and Pfc. Brian Robinson from the 714th Med. Det. (Preventive Medicine) from Fort Benning, Ga.

"We are here because foot-and-mouth is a disease associated primarily with animals. And this type of work is Preventive Medicine's specialty," said Spc. Cress.

"We need to do this so new animals and diseases aren't introduced into this country and destroy the ecology," said Pfc. Robinson.

Kristie Hesser, environmental manager for Brown and Root, was also on hand to perform tests on the water leaving the site, and to make sure there was as little environmental damage as possible.

The Polish soldiers, appearing tired from their long journey, were quick to get the tanks and trucks up on the racks, but the medics took their time and did thorough inspections on each for mud, dirt and other debris that might spread disease.

Pfc. Robinson and Spc. Cress went over the vehicles with fine-toothed knives, using plastic eating utensils provided by the mess tent to scrape along the underbody and wheel-wells of the vehicles to ensure that they were completely cleaned.

After the medics gave their approval on the cleanup, the vehicles were sprayed with a chlorine solution to fully disinfect them before continuing on their way.



Kristie Hesser, the environmental manager for Brown and Root, tests the water at the wash rack in Lukevac for chlorine levels from the disinfectant spray.



(Above) Sgt. Adam Jurczak and a private from his team take a break while waiting their turn on the wash rack. It took more than an hour for one cycle of eight vehicles to be washed and disinfected.

(Left) Pfc. Brian Robinson, 714th Medical Detachment, inspects the under-carriage of a vehicle owned by the PSRF. Pfc. Robinson used a plastic knife to check for dirt, debris and other foreign objects.

Acting Secretary Experiences MND(N)

Story and Photo by
Staff Sgt. Lisa Dunphy
Eagle Base

Quality of life and employer issues for National Guard and Reserve soldiers were some of the topics discussed by Acting Secretary of the Army Joseph W. Westphal during his visit to Multi-National Division North April 27 and 28.

Mr. Westphal toured Camps McGovern and Comanche, Forward Operating Base Connor and Eagle Base, as well as patrolled the Brcko District and areas in and around Srebrenica. At each visit he spoke to soldiers and relayed to them the pride the leadership feels toward the good work they are doing.

"I came here to say several things," he said. "I wanted to talk to the soldiers and tell them how proud the leadership and I are of them. We have incredible respect for what they are achieving. When I see a young lieutenant or young noncommissioned officer handling their duties with such fidelity, it makes me proud."

"Also," he continued, "I take it as part of my mission to tell those people back home that we are doing everything we can to update the quality of life there so those left behind during deployments are better served."

This was not Mr. Westphal's first visit to the area. Not long after the Dayton Peace Accords were signed, Mr. Westphal visited Bosnia and saw a different landscape than the one he viewed last week. "I've seen a lot of progress, but there is still a great deal of work to do. I've seen a lot of building and rebuilding, refugees moving back to their homes," he said. "This is due to our soldiers allowing that to happen. Our soldiers have offered a great deal of stability and comfort to the people of this region."

After arriving from Sarajevo, Mr. Westphal received a briefing on current operations by Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp, commanding general, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) and MND(N) before traveling to camps throughout the U.S. sector.

The Acting Secretary of the Army was impressed with the multi-national operations in the region. "We have formed a coalition with this NATO mission between us and the armies of the world," Mr. Westphal said. "We are seeing a very fluid, well-coordinated effort that is paying off." Another dividend to emerge from the mission is that we now have a much better understanding between our country and others, he said.

At Camp McGovern, Mr. Westphal met with soldiers and went on patrol through the District, an area that has seen many

positive changes over the last few years. Safer streets, repatriation of displaced populace and a multi-ethnic police force are some of the ongoing changes in Brcko.

Mr. Westphal then flew to the Eastern Republic of Srpska and visited the new forward operating base near Srebrenica. FOB Connor opened in April to provide a more focused presence in an area slow to recover from the war. He marveled at the changes that the new camp has made on the landscape.

"I was here not too long ago," Mr. Westphal noted. "I think I landed in a soccer field somewhere. The city was grim, the people were grim." Srebrenica was the site of one of the war's worst atrocities in July 1995.

While visiting the Srebrenica Cemetery Memorial site near FOB Connor, Capt. Charles Bennett, commander, Company A, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry, used a sand table to show Mr. Westphal the area of operations. Capt. Bennett explained that there is good reason for the soldiers at FOB Connor to be physically located where they are. Previously, it took nearly two hours for a patrol to reach Srebrenica from Camp Dobol.

"We're here to keep things safe so (the residents) can come back and rebuild, Capt. Bennett told Mr. Westphal. "Location-wise, we're in a much better position here than we were before."

A vehicle tour of the area near Potocari in the Eastern RS displayed to Mr. Westphal some of the gritty reminders of the fighting that occurred in the not-too-distant past, including buildings into which Bosnian Serbs herded Bosnian-Muslims for execution.

Employer support for the Guard and Reserves was also a topic of importance for soldiers here. Stabilization Force 9 has the largest contingent of National Guard combat ground forces of any previous SFOR rotation, including the 48th Infantry Brigade, Georgia National Guard, and 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry Division, Arkansas National Guard.

"We need to make the case to employers



(Above) Capt. Charles Bennett, commander of Company A, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry, points out areas of concern to Honorable Joseph W. Westphal during a sand-table display of the FOB Connor area of operations.

that soldiers who deploy bring back so many positive things to the workplace," he said. "I want to thank employers for their support of the soldiers, and tell the people of Georgia and all the other states that they should be very proud of their employees who are now soldiers here," Mr. Westphal said. "I would tell the employers that we rely on you for these missions, and encourage them to support the reserve component soldiers however they can."

When asked about the integration of active and reserve-component soldiers in MND(N) in general and SFOR 9 specifically, Mr. Westphal was quick to voice his praise. "I have been very impressed with the unison and coordination of both groups. It is amazing how much progress we have seen as an Army," he said. "It is essential in this type of mission – we have combined the experience, maturity and knowledge of the reserve components with the training and readiness of the active component."

Mr. Westphal left with a positive image of soldiers in the battalions. "Our mission here is a great challenge," Mr. Westphal said. "It is apparent that we are prepared for any challenges we might encounter."

Saturday, May 5, 2001

TFME Offers Sympathetic Ear to Soldiers of MND(N)

Story by
Maj. Robert J. Ensley, M.D.
Eagle Base

Let's face it—when you're deployed for 179-plus days, not every one of those days is going to be a bed of roses.

Being challenged is one thing. It keeps our minds active and our bodies busy, gives us a sense of purpose and personal achievement, and seems to make the time pass more quickly.

But on some days, when the demands placed on us are too few or too many, things don't go as smoothly.

We experience either mind-numbing boredom or overwhelming anxiety, neither of which is very pleasant.

Add in home-front concerns, roommate difficulties, workplace conflicts and plain old home-sickness, and we have a recipe for misery.

On such days, be aware there are folks who can help. We, at the 528th Medical Detachment (Combat Stress Control) are here for all SFOR soldiers.

Soldiers can see us directly without a referral by calling or emailing to set up a time that works best and is most private for them.

Most soldiers are reassured to find they are reacting more to simple stress and fatigue than a "mental illness", but we are trained to provide a full range of mental health services.

Our current team is made up of a psychiatrist, a clinical social worker, and two mental health specialists.

One of our main messages to SFOR 9 is this: you don't have to have a "mental illness" to benefit from our services.

You don't have to have a "mental illness" to benefit from our services.

We have a number of classes and programs designed for you, the average soldier, who's looking for more information on how to handle common but troubling problems that arise during a deployment.

Class topics include conflict resolution, goal-setting, relationship building, stress hardiness, relaxation, and dealing with the unique pressures of peacekeeping. These presentations are offered

to all TFE units, and may be requested by unit leaders at any level.

As the rotation draws to a close, all soldiers are provided a briefing on redeployment stress as well.

We also schedule regular "CSC Liaison" training for designated representatives from each interested unit, providing a half-day "crash course" in the basics of our operation.

This includes training in suicide awareness and prevention, our most important mission, and one we share with the chaplains service.

Some soldiers decide to make their deployment a time for self-improvement, and we encourage this.

One popular program continues to be the tobacco cessation program, run in conjunction with the TFME pharmacy service and Fit Eagle Program. New classes are

scheduled every three weeks in the Medical Education Tent, adjacent to the hospital.

For soldiers having ongoing personality clashes, anger problems, or other difficulty dealing with others, we conduct a weekly group-therapy session.

More serious cases are followed individually, as are any soldiers found to have clinical depression, anxiety, substance use, or other psychiatric conditions. When a formal command referral is desired, these require that certain DoD guidelines be followed. Call us first to arrange this. Some situations are infrequent, but call for an immediate response.

The exhumation of human remains is one such example where briefings both before and after the detail are important. And following any high-intensity or traumatic event, a debriefing is beneficial, if not essential. Our goal is to help soldiers help themselves.

For more information, call us at 762-0230 or -0443, or visit our website: from the EagleVision homepage, go to EagleVision Webs, then click on Combat Stress.

You can also e-mail us at Brainrangers@yahoo.com.

MWR Helps Eagle Base Get Physical

Spc. Lewis M. Hilburn
Eagle Base

Morale, Welfare and Recreation is scheduling a series of sporting events throughout this summer season. Starting things off will be the softball league, beginning play on May 7.

MWR was expecting about 16 to 20 teams to participate, but 30 teams will be playing in the league.

"We were surprised to have such a big turnout," said Mr. Marcus Wheeler, director of MWR.

During the coaches meeting April 25, the coaches had many questions and concerns about what would take place in

this season.

Mr. Wheeler stated that as long as the teams have the minimum number of players, they would be fine.

"This is a chance for service members to get out of their quarters and participate in something fun," he said.

He also stated that MWR is here for the service members of Eagle Base and that they encourage people to take part in other sporting events and activities coming up if they choose not to play in the softball league, or to come out and support those who do.

The sports leagues are something they do for the service members. In upcoming months there are volleyball, basketball and

flag-football leagues. Dates for these sporting events are undetermined.

Different days of the week you can find other things to do that MWR coordinates. Triggers hosts music and game nights put on by MWR. They also host holiday events, the next of which is scheduled Memorial Day.

MWR has many things going on regularly. They put on concerts that occur here and are in charge of the movies and the fitness center.

Mr. Wheeler hopes that he will get as big a turnout with the other leagues as he did with softball. He hopes everyone will take part in the games, if not as an athlete, then by cheering their unit's team to victory.

Navy Watches Over Eagle Base, Provides Security From Above

Story and photos by Spc. T.S. Jarmusz
Eagle Base

Soaring through the black of night, the flight crew of the Navy's P-3 Orion conducts covert video surveillance of the rocky Bosnian countryside nearly 23,000 feet below.

Meanwhile, back on Eagle Base, real-time video feed from the Orion is being transmitted by radio signal to the U.S. Navy Intelligence Center P-3 Imagery Detachment, CTF 67.

"We take video imagery from the aircraft and provide real-time support for intelligence gathering missions. If our command thinks something might be going on, we take a look at it," said Navy Cmdr. Terry L. Swinney, P-3 Imagery Detachment Liaison Naval Officer from Auburn, Wa.

Many people may not realize that we have a Naval Detachment right here on land-locked Eagle base. "The Detachment is stationed here, rather than out in the Adriatic Sea because its close proximity to Tuzla allows the P-3 to transmit analog data within its effective range," said Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Joe A. Meekins, Leading Petty Officer of the Detachment, and an Outer Banks, N.C. native.

Among the few sailors and Marines stationed here, four are needed to operate the detachment. Their tasks include: tracking the P-3 aircraft, communicating with the crew, repairing the equipment and gathering aerial images to be analyzed by military intelligence.

The detachment is one of four in the Bosnia-Herzegovina area. Planes fly out of the naval air station in Sigonella, Italy, and cover Mostar, Tuzla, Sarajevo, Kosovo and their surrounding air space zones, according to Cmdr. Swinney.

"From roughly 20,000 feet, the P-3 can zoom in close enough to make out buildings, body counts and even facial features," said Cmdr. Swinney. Sometimes, clouds and other inclement weather can interfere with image clarity and transmission, he added.

"We're looking for significant activities such as people gathering at the target deck, and vehicle movements," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Meekins.

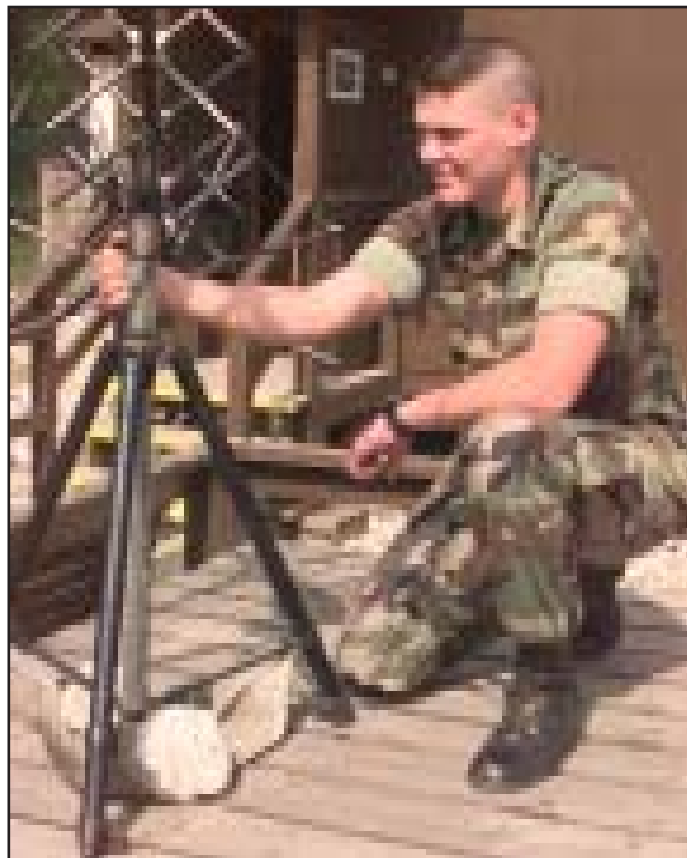
"Our job is to support service members and their missions. The real-time video shows us what is going on at potential hotspots, giving our command advance notice," said Commander Swinney. From the information gathered, NATO can analyze the data and determine how many troops are needed and where and when to send them.

One such mission recently supported by P-3 surveillance was the raid of the Orasje branch of the Herzegovacka Bank.

"The video provided the planners at SFOR with up-to-date imagery in the days leading up to the bank raid. The units going

into the area had the opportunity to see the ground beforehand," said Capt. Carolyn M. Davis, collection manager with the 103rd Military Intelligence Battalion.

The prior reconnaissance allowed units to compare the map with the actual image so they could plan routes and watch for heavy traffic areas, according to Capt. Davis



Lance Cpl. Joseph A. Henry, Remote Receiver Station Technician with the P-3 Imagery Detachment, makes some minor adjustments to a satellite communication system used to interact with the other detachments in BiH.

Similar missions take place daily throughout the world, such as the recent flight near China, where an aircraft was forced to land and its crew was forcibly detained by the Chinese government. It is important to bear in mind that the reconnaissance and surveillance missions of the P-3 aircraft are not for the purpose of spying. The P-3 conducts open and known reconnaissance to promote mission efficiency and troop safety, according to Cmdr. Swinney.

In keeping with the old adage, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," Cmdr. Swinney added, "It allows our command to determine the appropriate response measures ahead of time instead of after the fact."

"By not spreading our manpower too thin, we can keep our service members safe so they are not in the wrong place at the wrong time," said Marine Cpl. Elizabeth Sefransky, Remote Receiving Station Operator of the detachment, from Morrisville, Pa.

"This information is great for force protection. It assists in risk assessment, and gives us the added advantage of sending the P-3 to survey the scene, instead of sending our soldiers," said Capt. Davis.

Though the Navy and Marine presence here is small in number, their contribution is substantial. They are a vital part of a multinational joint operation that exists to help ensure a safe and secure environment for the people of BiH and protect U.S. forces and their coalition partners.



Cmdr. Swinney fine-tunes an adjustable tower used in communications with the P-3 Orion.

Service Members Bring Joy to Bosnian Refugee Camp

Story and photos by
Spc. Lewis Hilburn
Eagle Base

Have we lost sight as to why we are in Bosnia? Are we here for our own benefit? The Air Force's 401st Expeditionary Group doesn't think so.

The group set out April 28 to a refugee camp in Tuzla, handing out supplies to kids and adults donated from several organizations across the United States.

While at the camp the airmen and soldiers were treated to a skit the children arranged. Afterwards, the service members enjoyed a fashion show. The children dressed up like models and walked down a runway, and then danced the Macarena.

Pfc. Jason Vance, an Army administrative clerk in the Coalition Press Information Center, put on a magic show for the children. The looks on their faces were those of wonder.

"The look of amazement and surprise on people's faces is one of the reasons I love magic so much, but when you put that look on a child's face it makes it even more enjoyable," Pfc. Vance said. After the 20-minute show the children begged to see more. Pfc. Vance obliged, and showed the audience a few more tricks.

"He was the biggest hit in memory—



Airman 1st Class Celia Waddle takes time to make a precious memory with a young child living at a Bosnian refugee camp.

very few have had more attention than he," said Maj. Dennis P. Hanley, a Catholic priest for the 401st.

Then everyone went outside so that

gifts and supplies could be handed out. After that some service members partook in a game of soccer with the youngsters.

"The bonding was immediate," Maj. Hanley said. "Bonds of love and care know no language boundaries," he said.



(Above) Senior Airman Monique O. Jose wipes a child's face at a refugee camp in Tuzla.

(Left) Capt. Erik J. Bruce hands out supplies delivered to the refugee camp.

Capt. Matthew Geraci, company commander, and 1st Sgt. Lauren Larson, 62nd Ord. Co., set up a display of munitions to be destroyed. (photo by Sgt. James Montoya)



Kosovo In Brief

Task Force Falcon Press Release

1 Multi-National Brigade East soldiers continued their efforts integrating minorities into Kosovar society during the week of April 22-28 through work with the Kosovo Protection Corps and health care facilities in the region.

1 Regional Task Group 6 of the Kosovo Protection Corps inducted its first two Serbian members during a ceremony in Gnjilane Monday. The new KPC members will be assigned to detachments that provide support in and around Gnjilane. This integration was an important step in the long journey toward inter-ethnic tolerance and cooperation in Kosovo.

1 Task Force Medical Falcon hosted a meeting with Serb and Albanian municipal health house and hospital directors Friday in Urosevac/Ferizaj. Other participants included U.S. and Greek KFOR medical soldiers. Lectures were given on different medical care topics and attendees also discussed ideas for future training sessions.

1 In a joint operation, more than 400 U.S. servicemen conducted an airborne operation Friday kicking off Adventure Express/Dynamic Response 2001, a NATO exercise. U.S. paratroopers jumped from five Air Force C-130 Hercules onto a drop zone secured by U.S. Marines about one mile west of Vitina. This exercise demonstrated the U.S. armed forces ability to rapidly respond and deploy forces on short notice and respond to any military contingency.

1 Medical soldiers from MNB (E) conducted 11 Medical Civilian Assistance Programs last week in the towns of Mogila, Nika, Gajre, Mucibaba, Kisno Polje, Busavato, Dramnjak, Berivojce and Gornje Nerodimlje. More than 700 people were treated, including 597 Albanians, 190 Serbs and 13 Romas.

1 Upcoming events in MNB(E) next week include the start of the UNMIK-P weapons amnesty program, a media registration day and more MEDCAPs to assist the people of Kosovo.

1 The United Nations Mission in Kosovo-Police and MNB (E) will accept weapons starting April 30 as part of UNMIK-P's weapon's amnesty program. Citizens of Kosovo will be allowed to turn in illegal weapons through June 4 without the fear of prosecution. Civilians can turn weapons in at any KFOR site, KFOR patrol or at the UNMIK-P fixed amnesty turn-in site or mobile amnesty turn-in point in the MNB (E) sector.

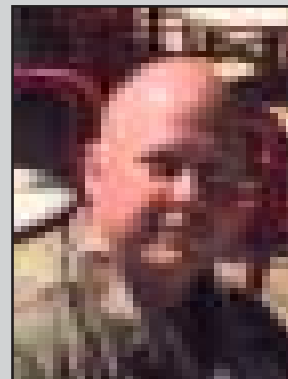
1 There are 13 MEDCAPS planned for the week of April 29-May 5 in the towns of Klokot, Seliste, Firaja, Desivojce, Globocicca, Dubrava, Vitina Church, Drenusha, Brezovica, Vaganes, Drajkovce, Mogila and Mucibaba. An eye doctor will issue donated eyeglasses in Brezovica May 4.

Soldier on the Street

"What positive changes have you seen in the military during your time in service?"

The Army has taken more time to listen to its soldiers, and respond to their needs, on a personal and family level. Soldiers are receiving a lot better care than 20 years ago.

Sgt. Harry Moore,
B. Co, 148 FSB



There has been a lot of improvement in enlisted housing, as well as pay and other enlisted issues. There is still a long way to go, but the issues have been addressed."

Capt. Trish Morris,
CIMIC Battalion

The quality of our soldiers. There are a lot of wise, talented people coming in, with quality skills. That makes our force that much stronger.

Lt. Col. Calvin Carter,
Task Force Eagle G-1



Correction

Due to technical errors in the "Soldier on the Street" segment of the April 28 issue, the photo of Sgt. Tasha T. McMurray, TFME, 28th CSH, was accidentally omitted. At left is Sgt. McMurray's photo.